Dwight Seegmiller (left) National President of the Future Farmers of America presents the American Farmer Degree to Gary W. Thomas (right) of Appomattox, Virginia. The American Farmer Degree is the highest degree of membership in the FFA. It was presented to 564 FFA members during the 46th National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 16-19.

Thomas Receives American Farmer Degree

Gary W. Thomas of Appomattox received the American Farmer Degree today at special ceremonies held during the 46th National Convention of the Future Farmers of America, in Kansas City, Mo. He was one of 564 FFA members selected to receive the American Farmer Degree, highest degree of membership in the FFA. As a holder of the American Farmer Degree, he joins a select group representing about one percent of all FFA members.

Gary is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Thomas of Appomattox.

The American Farmer Degree is presented only by the National Organization of the Future Farmers of America to members who have demonstrated exceptional agricultural and leadership ability. State FFA Associations are permitted to submit candidates for the American Farmer Degree based on total FFA membership in the state. The 564 members awarded the American Farmer Degree represent the highest achievement of more than 448,000 FFA members now enrolled in the nation's 7,798 high school vocational agriculture departments.

FFA members begin as "Greenhands" and after one year of membership may be advanced by the local chapter to the degree of "Chapter Farmer." The third degree, that of "State Farmer," is presented by the State FFA Association and is limited to no more than two percent of the State's FFA membership in any one year. Only students who have earned the State Farmer Degree are eligible for the American Farmer Degree.

In addition to having earned the State Farmer Degree, candidates for the American Farmer Degree must have been active members of the FFA continuously for at least three years. They must have a record of participation in local and state FFA activities and they must have completed all of the vocational agriculture instruction offered in their high school. Candidates must have been out of high school for at least a year and must have in operation, an outstanding supervised farming or agribusiness occupation program. American Farmer applicants must have earned at least $1,000 by their own efforts through their occupational experience program and must have their earnings productively invested or deposited in a bank. Finally, the American Farmer candidates must have demonstrated outstanding ability through their leadership and cooperation in student, chapter and community activities. They must have a satisfactory scholarship record as certified by the local school superintendent or principal.

Each America Farmer Degree recipient is presented a gold key and certificate by the Future Farmers of America. Receipients who attend the Convention are presented a check from the Future Farmers of America Foundation to help pay their travel expenses.

The National FFA Convention is an annual event of the Future Farmers of America and is carried out in cooperation with the U. S. Office of Education, of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This year over 14,000 FFA members, vocational agriculture teachers, parents, and guests are taking part in the 46th National FFA Convention.

The Convention is conducted entirely by student members all between the ages of 14 and 21. The six National FFA Officers take charge of all business sessions and 115 official delegates represent the membership in voting on all issues of business.

In addition to the American Farmer Degree many other FFA awards are presented during the Convention. Contests are held in dairy, livestock, poultry, meats, milk quality and dairy foods, public speaking and agricultural mechanics. Several guest speakers of national prominence address the Convention audience and entertainment is interspersed with the business. The Convention is one of the largest annual youth Conventions in the nation. It closes on Friday evening with the installation of six new National FFA Officers.

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CONFEDERATE BOULEVARD
WILBUN'S SUPER MARKET
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

photo by Shearer Robertson

Rocks Quartet To Sing At Liberty Baptist Church Sunday Evening

The Rocks Quartet will present a program of testimony and music at Liberty Baptist Church on Sunday evening, October 28th, at 7:30 p.m.

This will be a most inspirational program and the public is cordially invited to share in this evening of worship.

Boy Scouts of Troop 546 will be contacting you shortly to sell items from their Tom-Wat kits. Some of these boys, shown above from left to right, are Tibbie Allen, Hugh Bugg, Bud Carter, and David Bryant.

When the boy scouts come by to see you, look over their items. There will be many items of use in their kits and you can help these boys by purchasing items from them. They are selling these items to raise money for a bus for trips and camping.

Troop 546 To Sell Items From Tom-Wat Kits

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated in the United States in 1910 and chartered by congress in 1916, to develop character of boys and train them for the responsibilities of citizenship in life by influence brought to bear in their work and play. The National Constitution declares the intention:

"To promote the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in good craft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues."

On joining the organization each boy takes the Scouts Oath to keep himself "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight". The Scout law requires him to exert such qualities as trustworthiness, loyalty, helpfulness, obedience, cheerfulness, thrift, bravery, cleanliness, and reverence. The scout motto is *"Be Prepared."*

Troop No. 546 of Appomattox County is composed of the following members: Ralph Akers, Tibbie Allen, Bruce Austin, Jimmy Baxter, Dickey Beale, David Bryant, Hugh Bugg, Steve Burrell, Gary Campbell, Robert Carter, Marvin Dillard, Ray Fleshman, Willis Fleshman, Jack Goldstein, Ken Holt, Robert Lawhorn, Steve Lawhorn, Lewis O'Brien, Bud Rosser, Don Scruggs, Phil Seay, James Williams and Neal Goldstein, scoutmaster.

CONCORD GARDEN CLUB SPONSORS BAKE SALE

The Concord Garden Club will sponsor a Bake Sale at Concord, Route 460, in front of Big Horn Market on October 27th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be pastries of all kinds made by the members, as well as jams, jellies, candy, Indian corn, potted plants and dried arrangements.

Proceeds will be used for community beautification and sending a youth to Nature Camp.

PHONE 352-8215

Concord Garden Club

The Concord Garden Club met in the home of Mrs. J. W. Pratt for the October meeting with Mrs. E. L. Walker as co-hostess.

An interesting and informative program on "Preparing Potted Plants and Bulbs for Winter' was participated in by the entire membership present, Mrs. Ryland Phelps gave added information from her collected matrial on the subject. The president, Dr. Mae Kelly, shared an interesting pamphlet on the subject and stated that she would try to secure one from the Extension Office for each member.

During the business session the president emphasized the importance of attending the District Meeting in Altavista on Oct. 17, when members will hear about "Hollies". The following have made reservations for this meeting: Mrs. David Bober, Mrs. R. N. Lachapelle, Mrs. R. E. Davidson, Mrs. M. M. Robers, and Dr. Kelly.

Mrs. Clyde Nash, Chairman of Ways and Means Committee, outlined duties of members for the Bake Sale on Oct. 27th.

The president explained the Virginia Federation's Ways and Means Project in the fall and gave each member a catalogue for ordering available products, samples of which were on exhibit. proceeds from the project will be used for community beautification.

After the business session a delicious luncheon was served by the hostesses. Ribbons were awarded to the following: Arrangements, Blue, Mrs. C. F. Jones, Mrs. Ryland Phelps, and Dr. Mae Kelly; Red, Mrs. Wilson Dowling

Horticulture: Blue, Mrs. R. N. Lachapelle (1), Mrs. J. W. Bratt (4) Mrs. M. M. Roberts (1) Red, Mrs. R. N. Lachapelle (1) Mrs. J. W. Pratt (5) Yellow, Mrs. J. W. Pratt (1)

U.D.C. Has Eye Bank Program

The Eye Bank Program has interested the members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy for sometime. At their meeting last Thursday evening Mr. Sam Hudson, standing, with A. G. Jefferson in Lynchburg, spoke to the group concerning the Eye Bank Program, using as his theme, "Eyes That See Again". Shown seated is Mrs. A. J. Zastrow, chapter president.

Mr. Hudson showed a movie of the operational procedure used in replacing the eye tissue to restore sight to blind persons.

He stated that no one was too old nor any eye too bad to help with the program. All eye tissue to be transplanted must reach the recipient within 48 hours. However if it fails to reach the recipient, the eyes can then be turned over to the hospital for study of eye disease and eye injuries so that more people can be helped through research to see again.

Mr. Hudson distributed donor cards and literature to the members of the UDC to be considered and signed and given to any Lion Club member so that the donor will be registered at the Eye Bank.

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